



## MAMMOGRAPHY MACHINE OPERATOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Operator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Exam/Patient/Film ID: \_\_\_\_\_

EVALUATION ITEM	SATISFACTORY/ NEEDS IMPROVEMENT		COMMENTS
	(S)	(NI)	
1. Proper and compassionate patient handling skills.			
2. Proper cranio-caudal positioning. (Please refer to guidelines on reverse side.)			
3. Proper medio-lateral oblique positioning. (Please refer to guidelines on reverse side.)			
4. Appropriate compression.			
5. Proper technique factor selection.			
6. Proper maintenance of records.			
7. Familiarity with QA procedures.			
8. Knowledge of the following:  Machine ACR status  Most recent state inspection and frequency  Most recent consulting physicist evaluation  Radiation dose for an average patient  Recent phantom image results and score			
9. Ability to produce acceptable mammograms. (Please refer to criteria on reverse side.)			

*This is to certify that the Mammography Supervisor has discussed the results of this evaluation with the Machine Operator and has given a copy of these results to the Operator as of this date.*

Machine Operator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mammography Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

### **Cranio-caudal Positioning Steps**

- Determine the proper image receptor size.
- Move the photocell to the appropriate position.
- Stand on the medial side of the breast to be imaged.
- Elevate the inframammary fold to its maximum height, adjust bucky height accordingly.
- Use 1 hand, gently scoop the breast onto the image receptor tray.
- Center the breast over the photocell, with nipple in profile, if possible.
- Anchor the breast with 1 hand and hold until the compression process begins.
- Drape the opposite breast over the corner of the bucky with the other hand.
- Slightly rotate the patient's head away from the side being imaged.
- Lean the patient toward the machine with head forward and around the tube.
- Place an arm against the patient's back with a hand on the shoulder of the side being imaged, making sure the shoulder is relaxed.
- Slide the skin up over the clavicle with a hand on the shoulder.
- Pull lateral tissue onto the image receptor tray with the hand that is anchoring the breast, without losing medial tissue, while applying compression.
- Check that the patient's arm on the side being imaged is relaxed by her side with the shoulder externally rotated.

### **Medio-lateral Oblique Positioning Steps**

- Determine the proper image receptor size.
- Move the photocell to the appropriate position.
- Determine the degree of obliquity parallel to the pectoral muscle.
- Rotate the C-arm so that the long edge of the bucky is parallel to the pectoral muscle.
- Adjust the height of the film tray so that the top is level with the axilla.
- Lift the arm on the side to be imaged up and over the corner of the bucky.
- Place the corner of the bucky anterior to the latissimus dorsi.
- Place the patient's hand that is on the side being imaged on the C-arm, with the elbow flexed and the shoulder relaxed.
- Pull the breast and muscle anteriorly and medially with the flat front surface of the hand.
- Scoop the breast tissue up with the hand, grasping the lateral border of the breast with the fingers and the medial border of the breast with the thumb.
- Turn the patient toward the bucky making sure that the patient's feet are facing the machine.
- Center the breast with the nipple in profile, if possible.
- Hold the breast up and out by rotating the hand so that the base of the thumb supports the breast and so that the fingers are pointing away from the breast and continuing to hold the breast up and out throughout compression.
- Apply compression with the corner of the paddle below the clavicle.
- Pull down on the abdominal tissue to open the inframammary fold.

### **Clinical Image Evaluation Criteria**

Clinical images shall be evaluated with respect to the following items:

Positioning; Compression; Optical density; Sharpness; Contrast; Noise; Exam identification; Artifacts.